



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - May 22, 2002

- C ***In the West***, locally heavy precipitation is falling from ***eastern Washington to Wyoming***, giving a late-season boost to the mountain snowpack. Mostly dry, mild weather covers ***California*** and the ***Southwest***, although locally strong winds maintain high irrigation requirements and increase the threat of wild fires.
- C ***On the Plains***, another day of warm weather will favor summer crop emergence in the ***north***. Unfavorable dryness continues in the ***central and southern High Plains***, with highs in the 80s degrees F expected today from ***Texas to Nebraska***. Strong winds are increasing evapotranspiration rates in the ***southern and central Plains***.
- C ***In the Corn Belt***, a warming trend developing across the ***Ohio Valley*** will gradually help to alleviate excessive field wetness as corn and soybean planting slowly resume.
- C ***In the South***, mostly dry, mild weather dominates from ***Texas to the Atlantic Coast***, enhancing summer crop and pasture development but increasing crop moisture demands.

Outlook: Showers will accompany a slow-moving cold front in the ***central Plains and Great Lakes***, while rain and snow end in the ***northern Rockies***. Freezing temperatures will return to the ***northern Plains***. As the front stalls over the ***central U.S.***, periods of rain are likely in the ***southern Plains, Delta, and Corn Belt***. Farther ***east***, weekend showers in the ***Mid Atlantic*** will shift north into the ***New England States***. Rain will return to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies*** by the weekend, while the ***Southwest*** remains dry. Periodic showers and thunderstorms are possible across ***southern Florida***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for May 27-31 forecasts above-normal temperatures for ***most of the lower 48 States***, except for below-normal temperatures in the ***Carolinas***. Above-normal precipitation is expected for the ***Pacific Northwest, south-central Plains, and along the East Coast*** while below-normal precipitation is expected ***along the west-central Gulf Coast, and in the northern and central Rockies, northern Plains, and upper Midwest***.

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